

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is deemed avoided by virtue of the clarifications made to the claims hereinabove.

Moreover, the Examiner has objected to Claim 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. All of the independent claims have been substantially clarified in such manner (with a couple of exceptions to avoid antecedent issues). Further, additional dependent claims have been added to such independent claims.

Thus, all of the independent claims are deemed allowable. Moreover, the remaining dependent claims are further deemed allowable, in view of their dependence on such independent claims.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. NAI1P022/01.106.01).

Respectfully submitted,
Zilka-Korab, PC.

Kevin J. Zilka
Registration No. 41,429

P.O. Box 721120
San Jose, CA 95172-1120
408-505-5100

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